



3/10/04



## **Little Elk Creek Area-Wide One Cleanup Program Pilot Project Cecil County, Maryland**

An underutilized industrial park located along the Little Elk Creek in Cecil County, Maryland has been selected as an Area-Wide Pilot Project under U.S. EPA's One Cleanup Program and Land Revitalization initiatives. The Little Elk Creek Pilot Project is an unique opportunity to address a widespread groundwater contamination problem stemming from multiple industrial sources within a geographic area. The surrounding area is a growing bedroom community for the cities of Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore and development of the area, particularly residential development, is being hindered by the occurrence of groundwater contamination. The goal of the Little Elk Creek Pilot Project is to develop a collaborative, cross-programmatic approach to address the groundwater contamination problem and support development and reuse needs of the surrounding community.

### **Background**

- The target area is the Triumph Industrial Park, which has both operating and closed facilities, and other properties surrounding it. Historically, the area was first used as a fireworks and munitions production facility supplying military ordnance for World War II. Since closure of the munitions plant following the war, other manufacturing and industrial users moved into the area. Dump sites and ordnance related materials have been found in portions of the project area. Several facilities are performing investigations and/or cleanups under EPA's or the State's Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) cleanup programs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified portions of the target area as a Formerly Used Defense Site.
- Groundwater investigations show widely distributed volatile organic contamination throughout the pilot area.
- The industrial park is strategically located along the I-95 corridor, but underutilized due to unresolved contamination issues. The contamination is hampering the economic development of the region. Unemployment in this area is high and reuse of this industrial area would improve jobs opportunities for the community.
- Properties surrounding the industrial areas are also sought for residential growth. Better

understanding of the groundwater contamination in the area is needed to assist residential development efforts.

### **Stakeholders**

- Federal partners include EPA Region III's Brownfields, RCRA Corrective Action, Superfund, Federal Facilities, Water Protection and Chesapeake Bay programs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Partners within the Maryland Department of Environment include the Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup, Superfund, RCRA and Water Administration programs.
- Local partners include the Cecil County Health Department Environmental Health Division.

### **Project Goals**

- Creating a collaborative working environment between state and federal cleanup programs to address a widespread contamination problem affecting multiple properties.
- Educating EPA and State agency staff on the One Cleanup Program and Land Revitalization principles and incorporating these principles into the pilot project.
- Synthesizing data analysis from different types of environmental studies and assessments to establish common cleanup goals and standards for all sites in the area.
- Investigating innovative approaches to address liability concerns across a multi-site area.
- Prioritizing cleanup activities to meet the community's needs for reuse of the area.
- Establishing short and long term measures of success.
- Creating a webpage to showcase progress.

### **Key Activities**

- A planning meeting between EPA and MDE project managers to identify goals and objectives, measures of success, activities and needed resources was held on January 28, 2004.

- Develop an action plan with short term and long term objectives for the pilot project by March 31, 2004.
- Analyze data from site investigations to identify cross contamination issues and to develop understanding of the overall groundwater contamination problem facing the geographic area. A technical review meeting will be held March 10, 2004.
- Engage the local community in the cleanup and redevelopment process to assure that community needs are met. Identify community groups, including development and industrial interests, and solicit their input into the goals of the project and the action plan.
- Investigate development opportunities for the area and identify ways to foster reuse for the community.

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***For More Information, Contact:***

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